

Message Text

SECRET

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21

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 473

INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 17690

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: POST PURGE ANALYSIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. EMBASSY SUBMITTING BY AIRGRAM ANALYSIS OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO SEPT 19 PURGE AND ENDING WITH REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MELCHOR AND ABOLITION OF HIS OFFICE NOV 27. WE BELIEVE INITIAL PURGE ORIGINATED IN PRESIDENT'S CONCERN OVER BACKSLIDING IN MINITARY PROMPTED BY EVENTS IN THAILAND AND INDOCHINA AND HIS DECISION TO DISCIPLINE MILITARY. MILITARY IN END ESCAPED PURGE BUT PRESIDENT DECIDED TO CARRY OBJECT LESSON TO LOWER LEVEL CIVILIANS AND THEN TO SELECTED NUMBER HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS. MELCHOR ENTHUSIAS- TICALLY SUPPORTED PURGE. MRS. MARCOS OBJECTED MOST STRENU- OUSLY AT INCLUSION OF HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS, MANY OF WHOM CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH HER OR HER INTERESTS AND IN END--ALTHOUGH EXACT ROLE OF MRS. MARCOS NOT FULLY KNOW--WE THINK SHE FORCED PRESIDENT TO ABORT PURGE AND ULTIMATELY EJECT MELCHOR BECAUSE LATTER'S CRITERIA FOR PURGE OF EFFICIENCY AND OB- JECTIVITY THREATENED TO UNRAVEL THREADS OF LOYALTY TO HER AND PRESIDENT (OF BOTH HIGH AND LOW LEVEL OFFICIALS) SO LABORIOUSLY BUILT UP OVER LONG POLITICAL CAREER.

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2. CONSEQUENCES OF EVENTS OF PAST FEW MONTHS STILL BEING

FELT. TECHNOCRATS BADLY SHAKEN. CABINET AS WHOLE INCLUDING ENRILE SOBERED BY ABRUPT END OF HONEYMOON ERA WITH PRESIDENT. MILITARY ACQUIRED NEW PUBLIC IMAGE WITH FAVORED EXCLUSION FROM PURGE BUT PROBABLY STILL UNHAPPY BY PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO DISCIPLINE THEM. PRESIDENT EMERGES AS GREATEST LOSER, CREDITED WITH MOST SERIOUS POLITICAL ERROR IN HIS CAREER, DENTING IMAGE OF NEW SOCIETY AS TECHNOCRAT-INSPIRED, LOSING SERVICES OF MAN AND OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR MUCH OF NEW SOCIETY INITIATIVES, AND REVEALING VULNERABILITY TO WIFE EVEN ON IMPORTANT STATE MATTERS. MRS. MARCOS IS WINNER, EARNING GRATITUDE FROM MILITARY, STRENGTHENED ALLEGIANCE FROM HER FOLLOWERS, NEW PRESTIGE AND IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONAL BASE AS METRO MANILA GOVERNOR. HER SUCCESS WILL STRENGTHEN HER CERTITUDE SHOULD SHE SUCCEED PRESIDENT BUT WE DO NOT SEE HER ATTEMPTING TO ADVANCE TIME TABLE. PRESIDENT REMAINS ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER. NEVERTHELESS UNCERTAINTIES HAVE EMERGED IN DOING BUSINESS WITH GOVERNMENT AND WILL REMAIN UNTIL PRESIDENT HAS COMPLETED UNDOING MELCHOR'S OFFICE AND RE-ORGANIZING BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT IN OTHER WAYS. NEXT TEST OF WILLS MAY DEVELOP OVER USE OF RESOURCES-FOR MANILA OR FOR THE COUNTRY. SULLIVAN

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NNN

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